In the Claims

1. (Previously Presented) A system helpful to teach a child to read, comprising:

an image sensor;

a speaker; and

a processor coupled to said image sensor and speaker, the processor comprising a steganographic watermark detector for sensing steganographic watermark data on a book page presented to the image sensor, and for causing the speaker to produce sounds corresponding to reading of words on said book page.

2. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

sensing a page of a children's book with an image sensor;

decoding a digital watermark from image data produced by the image sensor; and

triggering an action associated with said page, said action comprising generating audible sounds corresponding to reading of words on said book page.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 wherein said sounds are assembled from component phonemes or common words previously recorded by a person.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said component phonemes or common words are stored locally, and correspond to a child or a child's family member.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein said component phonemes or common words are stored remotely, and correspond to a celebrity voice.

7-19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2 that further comprises starting playback of a video at a point corresponding to said page.

21. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

providing a book to a child, the book comprising printed pages, each page being steganographically encoded with plural bit data, one page being encoded with first plural bit data and a further page being encoded with second plural bit data different than the first plural bit data;

the child presenting said one page of the book to a reading station, the reading station including a processor, an optical scanner, a memory, and a speaker, the scanner providing visible light scan data to the processor; the processor decoding said visible light scan data to decode the first plural bit data, the processor accessing stored voice data from the memory in accordance with said decoded first plural bit data, and causing said stored voice data to be rendered using said speaker;

the child turning to said further page of the book, and presenting said further page to the reading station, the processor of the reading station decoding visible light scan data corresponding to said further page to decode the second plural bit data, and accessing different stored voice data from the memory in accordance with said decoded second plural bit data, and causing said different stored voice data to be rendered using said speaker;

wherein the child controls an automated read-aloud process, assisting the child in learning to read.

22. (Previously Presented) A children's book comprising plural pages, one of said pages being steganographically encoded with first plural bit data, and another of said pages being steganographically encoded with second, different, plural bit data, said steganographic encoding not being apparent to human observers of the pages, but can be decoded from image data produced by visible light scanning of said pages, wherein the first and second plural-bit data serves to index first and second digitized auditory information, respectively.

23. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

sensing a page of a children's book with an image sensor;

decoding machine-readable information from image data produced by the image sensor; and

triggering an action associated with said page, wherein said action comprises starting playback of a video at a point corresponding to said page.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23 that comprises starting playback of the video at an intermediate point between a start and an end of said video, said intermediate point corresponding to said page.